

In the Claims:

1 (withdrawn). An abrasive material comprising an integral mass of discrete lengths, substantially held together solely by entanglement forces, of abrasive-coated nonwoven synthetic fibres.

2 (withdrawn). An abrasive material according to claim 1, wherein the lengths are each of individual fibres, a number of fibres bound together or strips of nonwoven fleeces, wherein each strip has a width of between 2 and 10 mm.

3 (withdrawn). The abrasive material according to claim 1, wherein the entanglement force between the said lengths is great enough to maintain a wad of the material when in use but small enough to allow the product to be shaped in the hand of a user.

4 (withdrawn). The abrasive material according to claim 1, which is deformable, and which is able to maintain its shape when deformed.

5 (withdrawn). The abrasive material according to claim 1, having a strength sufficiently low enough to allow separation into user-defined quantities.

6 (withdrawn). The abrasive material according to claim 1, which has substantially the same tear strength in all directions.

7 (withdrawn). The abrasive material according to claim 1, wherein the abrasive is in the form of grains which are held in or on the fibers by a binder.

8 (withdrawn). A method of abrading a surface, which comprises contacting the surface with a wad of an abrasive material comprising an integral mass of discrete lengths, substantially held

together solely by entanglement forces, of abrasive-coated non-woven synthetic fibres, wherein the wad is obtainable from a larger mass of the material having a sufficiently low strength to allow it to be separated into the wad, of a desired quantity, and a sufficiently high strength to maintain the wad of material when in use.

9 (currently amended). A method of manufacturing an abrasive material, comprising the steps of:

- (i) spraying a nonwoven synthetic fibre fleece with ~~resin and a~~ binder;
- (ii) spreading the sprayed fleece with abrasive;
- (iii) curing the binder; and
- (iv) passing the ~~resultant material~~ fleece to a fibre-opening machine to wholly or substantially separate the fibres from one other.

10 (withdrawn). A method of manufacturing an abrasive material, comprising the steps of:

- (i) spraying a nonwoven synthetic fibre fleece with resin and binder;
- (ii) spreading the sprayed fleece with ~~absrasive~~;
- (iii) curing the binder; and
- (iv) shredding the resultant material to produce thin strips of material.

11 (currently amended). An abrasive material obtainable by a method comprising the steps of:

- (i) spraying a nonwoven synthetic fibre fleece with ~~resin and a~~ binder;
- (ii) spreading the sprayed fleece with abrasive;
- (iii) curing the binder; and
- (iv) passing the ~~resultant material~~ fleece to a fibre-opening machine to wholly or substantially separate the fibres from one another.

12 (withdrawn). An abrasive material obtainable by a method comprising the steps of:

- (i) spraying a nonwoven synthetic fibre fleece with resin and binder;
- (ii) spreading the sprayed fleece with abrasive;
- (iii) curing the binder; and
- (iv) shredding the resultant material to produce thin strips of material.